

SB 719 -- SCHOOL PURCHASES

SPONSOR: Kehoe (Wood)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 17 to 0.

This bill prohibits any elected official, appointed official, or employee of any school district from performing a service or selling, renting, or leasing any property to the school district for more than \$500 per transaction or \$5,000 of value annually to him or her, to his or her spouse, or to a dependent child in his or her custody, or to any business with which he or she is associated unless the transaction is made after public notice and competitive bidding in the case of property other than real property if the lowest bid or offer is accepted.

Currently, any school board member, officer, or employee of a seven-director school district that is located in a first classification county who sells or provides certain commodities to the district is guilty of a class A misdemeanor and must forfeit his or her position with the district. The bill removes this prohibition and aligns seven-director districts located in a first classification county with the current law regarding seven-director districts located in second, third, and fourth classification counties so that any school board member, officer, or employee may sell or provide certain commodities to the district provided he or she complies with certain ethical provisions.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill closes a gap in the ethics law as it applies to sales from or contract services by school employees.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Kehoe; Missouri Association of School Administrators; and Missouri School Boards Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.